



"Strength Through
Diversity"

August 29, 2013

John Jones
Commissioner
(435) 636-3271

Congressman Doc Hastings
Chairman
Natural Resources Committee
United States House, Washington DC

Congressman Peter DeFazio
Ranking Member
Natural Resources Committee
United States House, Washington DC

Dear Chairman Hastings and Ranking Member DeFazio:

A phrase such as "money does not grow on trees" is quite often overused. However, in America's National Forests, money and jobs do grow on trees. Unfortunately, a failed Federal Forest management system has led to the loss of thousands of family wage jobs and has left our rural forested counties with a myriad of social and economic problems that must be addressed.

For most of these counties, returning to a sustainable harvest level is the only answer that will absolutely provide family wage jobs and allow for a solid tax base to support badly needed services for entire communities.

From our perspective, there are at least three reoccurring themes hindering sustainable forest management:

1. Funding to prepare sales;
2. Environmental analysis and review time for management activities; and
3. Litigation that stalls or totally stops much of the harvest that badly needs to be done.

An increase in sustainable forest management is essential if we are to ever provide the healthy forests that were envisioned by President Theodore Roosevelt many years ago. The Forest mortality we are facing now is destroying habitat for wildlife, creating a catastrophic situation for massive wildfires that destroy everything in their path which leaves millions of acres of forests susceptible to massive bug and insect infestation. Unfortunately, many of these forests will not recover during our lifetime.

H.R 1526 addresses all of these issues. It provides a common sense approach for returning to sustainable forest management where the planned harvest can occur in a reasonable amount of time.

Casey Hopes
Commissioner
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We appreciate that the legislation has allowed for a temporary extension of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act. However, for long term social and financial health of rural forested communities, we must have the family wage jobs that are provided by a healthy forest products industry.

Carbon County, Utah fully supports H.R. 1526 when it comes to the House floor and will certainly contact our House members to speak in support and vote for the bill. We thank you for your consideration and hope you will also support H.R. 1526.

Respectively,
Carbon County Board of Commissioners



Casey Hopes
Commission Chairman

CH/sl